

The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Heinrich Emil Brunner Papers, 1923 – 1966



Image Credit: H. Emil Brunner Papers, 1923-1966, box 1 folder 19,
The Burke Library Archives at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Finding Aid prepared by: Benjamin Perry 2012

Updates by Brigette C. Kamsler, January 2015 with financial support from the Henry Luce
Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Heinrich Emil Brunner, 1889-1966
Title: Heinrich Emil Brunner Papers
Inclusive dates: 1923-1966
Bulk dates: 1923-1932
Abstract: Hines fellow at UTS, 1919-1920, Swiss Reform pastor in Obstalden, Switzerland, Professor at the University of Zürich. Collection consists of correspondence between Brunner and Olive Dutcher-Doggett, who was Professor of Biblical History at Wellesley College.
Size: 1 box, 0.50 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: Donated to the Union Archives at the Burke Library by Olive Dutcher-Doggett after 1966.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS1: Heinrich Emil Brunner Papers, 1923-1966, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York

Biography

A recipient of the Hines fellowship, Heinrich Emil Brunner studied at Union Seminary, New York from 1919 to 1920. Prior to attending Union, he was a student at the University of Zürich from 1908 to 1913, receiving a doctorate in theology. Ordained in the Swiss Reform Church in 1912, he subsequently served as pastor at a small church in Obstalden, Switzerland from 1916 to 1924. Olive Dutcher-Doggett first met Brunner in 1921 while he was serving as pastor at that church.

Brunner went on to teach systematics and practical theology at the University of Zürich from 1924 to 1953. He was a central figure in the neo-orthodox theological movement, publishing several volumes on the dogmatics of the Christian church.

Olive Dutcher-Doggett was a Union alumna, attending Union from 1901-1903 and, again from 1912 to 1913 when she received her diploma. After attending Union she was Professor of Biblical History initially at Vassar College from 1914 to 1917, and then at Wellesley College from 1917 to 1934.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The correspondence comprises a series of 97 letters written by Emil Brunner to Olive Dutcher-Doggett. The letters are written, largely, from Switzerland, where Brunner was teaching, to Wellesley, Massachusetts where Dutcher-Doggett was a professor. The bulk of the correspondence is written in German, although 13 letters are in English.

The letters indicate that the scholars had a personal friendship centered on their shared academic interests. Brunner on several occasions asks for her evaluation of his work. The letters, however, appear more personal than academic. Emil confides in Olive his feelings about God and how he sees God operating in his life. He shares with her his hopes, joys, and anxieties. In one of the later letters Brunner tells Olive that with the exception of his wife and his friend Peter, she is the person he trusts most in the world. This correspondence provides a unique insight into the mind of Emil Brunner.

Processing

Metal clips were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

In 2015, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant. At this time, the name of the collection was changed from “H. Emil Brunner Correspondence” or “H. Emil Brunner Letters” to the Heinrich Emil Brunner Papers.

Further Sources

The Burke Library offers other collections related to those who have studied at Union Theological Seminary and who have studied similar topics as Brunner. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives](#) website.

Contents list

| Box | Folder | Contents |
|-----|--------|---|
| 1 | 1-30 | Correspondence between Brunner and Olive Dutcher-Doggett, 1923-1966 |